

December 7, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dr. Layton R. McCurdy, Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

**From:** Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**Annual Report on the**  
**Academic Common Market Program**  
**FY 2005-06**

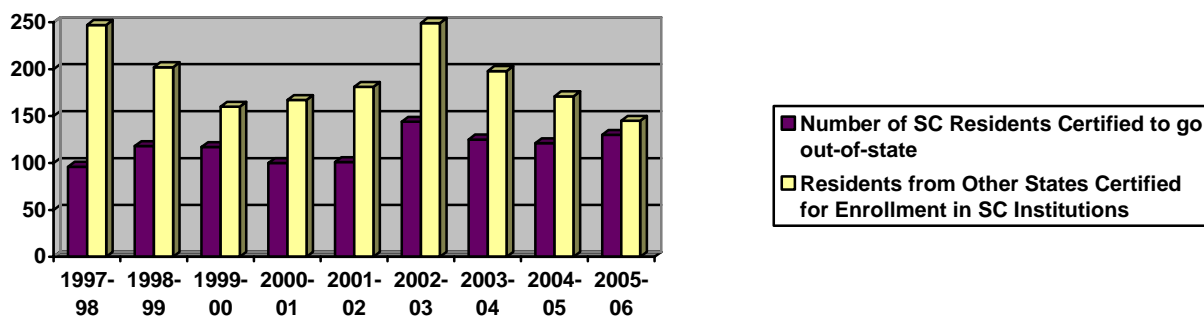
Established in 1974 by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the Academic Common Market program was designed “to share between states specified degree programs located at southern public colleges and universities through an exchange of students across borders at in-state rates.” As a cooperative agreement among states, the Academic Common Market seeks to eliminate unnecessary duplication of degree programs among states while supporting those programs which are able to serve additional students. The Market allows certified residents of the 16 participating states (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia) to pay in-state tuition rates while enrolled in certain degree programs at participating out-of-state colleges and universities. Florida, North Carolina, and Texas participate at the graduate level only.

Since one of the goals of the Academic Common Market is to provide access to degree programs not available in the home state, each participating state compiles its own list of programs for access by its residents. In accord with SREB policy, eligible programs are those undergraduate and graduate programs which are at least 50 percent different in course content from programs offered in the home state. During annual reviews, each state’s Academic Affairs Director decides whether new programs should be added and whether any should be removed. In South Carolina, the Academic Common Market institutional coordinators at all the public institutions are asked to review the new programs before a decision is made. In addition, students can request inclusion of other programs throughout the year.

In South Carolina, interested students must contact the Commission on Higher Education for access to the Academic Common Market. This process involves two steps. First, Commission staff must determine whether the student has satisfied the required **one-year** period of residence in the state. Secondly, the Commission staff must verify that the student has been admitted to one of the specific programs to which South Carolina residents have access. These programs, 148 undergraduate and 167 graduate programs, are listed in **Attachment 1**. Once the student has been certified, the student will retain Academic Common Market status as long as the student remains enrolled in the same degree program on a full-time basis and as long as the student retains South Carolina residency.

During the April 1, 2005, through March 31, 2006, period, South Carolina certified 130 state residents for participation in the Academic Common Market. During this same period, 145 residents from other states were certified for enrollment in South Carolina institutions (**Attachment 2**). In relationship to other participating states, South Carolina institutions received the sixth highest number (145) of Academic Common Market students from other states. Tennessee received the most students with 506 certifications and Alabama was next highest with 260 student certifications.

In terms of sending its residents to programs in other states, with 130 certifications, South Carolina ranks tenth out of 16 (after Kentucky-142, Tennessee-142, Louisiana-181, Virginia-257, Kentucky-142, and Maryland-382 ). As seen in the graph below there is one discernable trend other than South Carolina continuing to bring into the state more students than it certifies to go out-of-state; during the past four years the number of students certified to come into South Carolina has dropped each year.



During FY 2005-06, the majority of South Carolina Academic Common Market students were ACM certified for programs in Tennessee (50) and Georgia (28). In Tennessee the most requested program was the Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry offered at Middle Tennessee State University (12). In Georgia the most requested program was the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear & Radiological Engineering (7) offered at Georgia Institute of Technology.

The two most popular programs overall for South Carolina residents were the Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry at Middle Tennessee State University (13) followed closely by the Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering program offered at various institutions (11).

In Fall of 2005 South Carolina institutions had a total of 361 out-of-state students enrolled with Academic Common Market status. Once again, the South Carolina program with the most ACM students that semester was the Bachelor of Science in Marine Science program offered at Coastal Carolina University with a total of 223 students (**Attachment 3**).

The 87 programs currently made available through the Academic Common Market by South Carolina institutions are listed in **Attachment 4**.

To advertise this valuable program, which costs the state nothing, the Academic Common Market information will be transmitted electronically this fall to over 600 high school and middle school guidance counselors.

This report is being presented for information only.

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Attachments:

- 1) Out-of-State Programs available to S.C. residents through the ACM
- 2) Multi-State Matrix of all ACM Certifications April 1, 2005, to March 31, 2006
- 3) Out-of-State ACM Students Enrolled in S.C. Programs, Fall 2005
- 4) Current S.C. Programs made available to other states through the ACM